

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 INR-10 NEA-10 IO-14 EUR-25 PM-07

PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 130835

P R 171618Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5237

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USIAC

USIA FOR IAA, IOR/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ZAIRE PRESS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. IN SIGNED EDITORIAL 16 OCTOBER, "ELIMA", GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED DAILY, INDULGES IN SIDELINE EXHORTATIONS CRITICIZING "THE LESS ACTIVE PARTICPATION OF CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES IN A WAR WHICH CONCERNS ALL THE ARABS". THESE 'CERTAIN COUNTRIES' HAVE "NOT DEVOTED THEMSELVES TOTALLY TO THE WAR, LEAVING THE GREATER PART OF THE OPERATIONSS TO THE EGYPTIANS, SYRIANS, LEBANESE, AND, NATURALLY, THE PALESTINIANS."

2. "IT IS TIME", SAYS THE ARTICLE, "FOR ALL THE ARAB COUNTRIES TO CONSTITUTE A COMMON FRONT AND MOBILIZE THEIR RESPECTIVE ARMIES, IF THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE HUMILITATED ONCE AGAIN BY THE JEWS..."

COMMENT: OMISSION OF JORDAN AND LIBYA IN LIST OF 'FAVORED' NATIONS RATHER APPARENT AND CALL FOR "ALL-ARAB" MOBILIZATION ONE MORE STEP ALONG GOZ ROAD OF URGINGS TOWARD "ARAB UNITY."

3. "ELIMA" 17 OCTOBER CARRIES LARGE ONE STORY QUOTING
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PRESIDENT NIXON'S REMARKS CONCERNING MIDEAST SITUATION
AT MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY AND DRAWING CONCLUSION THAT
(HEADLINES). "THE UNITED STATES IS READY TO INTERVENE
MILITARILY ON THE SIDE OF THE ISRAELIS." INTERPRETATION
BASED ON US REACTION TO LEBANON CRISIS OF 1958 AND US
"READINESS TO INTERVENE TO SUPPORT JORDAN THREATENED BY
SYRIAN AGGRESSION IN 1970."

4. I.O. HAND-CARRIED TO "ELIMA" EDITORS FRENCH TRANSLATION
OF MCCLOSKEY CLARIFICATION NIXON REMARKS, WHICH EDITORS STATE
IS TO APPEAR IN NEXT EDITION. AMBASSADOR TELEPHONE NAT'L.
ORIENTATION COMMISSIONER SAKOMBI OFFERING FURTHER VERBAL CLARI-
FICATION, AND PAO FOLLOWED BY BY HAND-CARRYING TO SAKOMBI'S
OFFICE TRANSLATION OF PERTINENT PORTIONS OF MCCLOSKEY'S
CLARIFYING STATEMENTS OF OCT 15 AND 16. BUT CURRENT GOZ
ANTI-ISRAEL POLICY, LEADING TO MEDIA TREATMENT UNFAVORABLE
TO U.S., MAKES US NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC THAT OUR STEPS, FOR
THE MOMENT, CAN HAVE MORE THAN LIMITED AND TEMPORARY EFFECT
ON "OBJECTIFYING" THE SITUATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, INTERVENTION, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINSHA08999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731027/aaaaattg.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE PRESS ON MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, XI, XF, EG, IS, SY, US, CG
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005